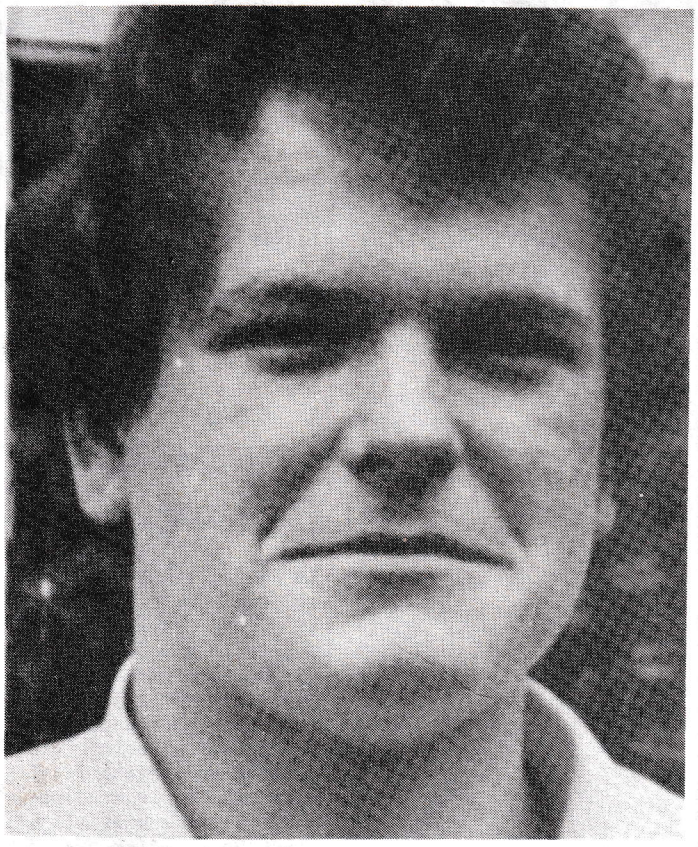
Tameside July '81 No. 24 15p

EYE

covering Droylsden
Longdendale Denton
Ashton Dukinfield
Stalybridge Mossley
Hyde & Audenshaw

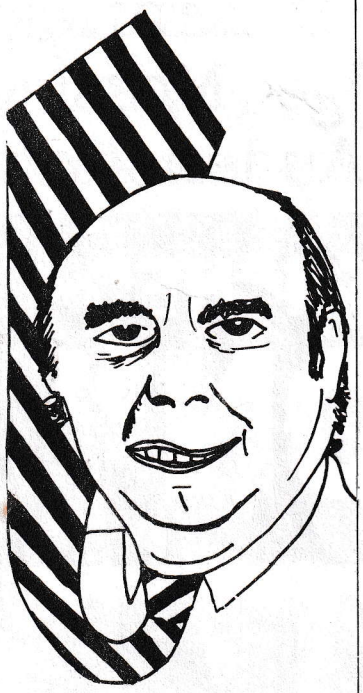
"A CLEAR CASE OF ENTRENCHED CORRUPTION"

This young worker was described in court as a "scapegoat" for a "corrupt racket" run by his boss, the superintendant of Tameside's Highways Department.



FULL INVESTIGATION p6&7

TIE MAN TOM



An artists impression of Tom's outstanding tie.

So, TOM PENDRY, the virile M.P. for Stalybridge and Hyde has got second place in the TIE MAN OF THE YEAR awards given out by the nation's grateful TIE - MANUFACTURERS.

Congratulations TOM! But we wonder whether you recall what the famous VIENNESE psycho-analyst SIGMUND FREUD had to say about TIES?

According to SIGGY, ties (like guns, bananas and big fat cigars) are potent phallic symbols worn by men as a kind of sub-concious sexual display. Well, TOM! Just imagine the Freudian implications of being the second biggest oops! sorry!! best tie-man in the country.
No wonder you leave the selection and upkeep of your tie to your wife MOIRA, who you say is completely responsible for your outstanding success in this area.

Incidentally, the first place in the TIE-MAN awards went to DENNIS THATCHER Which is interesting.□

AFFLUENT EFFLUENT

*"It's the rich wot gets the fishing, it's the poor wot gets the sh** "*

As we revealed in Issue 23, the River Tame in swish Saddleworth is a pollution free trout stream, but just before it enters Tameside it receives the outfall from Greenfield Effluent Treatment Works (t' biz-works as the locals say) where all Saddleworth effluent is treated.
So, Tameside is literally at the arse-end of its high class neighbour.

But, lets look on the bright side; EYE is privileged to list just a few of the SADDLEWORTH celebrities whose distinguished effluent passes through our borough.

*Lord Rhodes of Saddleworth *Local nob.*

*Michael 'Algy' Winterbottom. *Aviator,*

*Bobby Ball. *of Cannon and Ball*

*Sonny Ramadhin. *ex West Indies spin bowler.*

*Henry Livings. *'humourous' North Country writer.*

Doctor D. Atherton. *scourge of the alternative press.*□

Bangers

In February AUTOBAHN LTD. an Audenshaw car sales firm, was ordered by the Courts to pay out over £1,000 in fines and compensation after selling unroadworthy and dangerous cars. Director PETER JACKSON pleaded guilty, with his lawyer arguing that this was only a 'technical' offence - the cars had been sold cheaply, so what did the customer expect?

Interesting to note that JACKSON's firm were up in front of ASHTON MAGISTRATES again last month, this time getting a £100 fine, with £45 costs for selling a car with a false mileage on the clock.□

Wacko Again

TAMESIDE primary school headmasters who are in dispute with the council over its anti-caning policy can take comfort!

Their colleagues in DERBYSHIRE feel the same.

DERBYSHIRE Heads are now in dispute with their council bosses over the same issue.

EYE has the solution to the caning controversy. If TAMESIDE's primary school headmasters don't drop their disobedient anti-caning policy they should be lined up outside the office of EDUCATION COMMITTEE boss, CLLR.GLYN FORD, and be caned one by one until they learn the error of their ways.

A good caning never hurt anyone, after all! And there are some disobedient children who only understand the stick !□

Magic

MRS. MAY NIGHTINGALE, headmistress of COPLEY SECONDARY SCHOOL in STALYBRIDGE must be feeling pretty chuffed.

THE DAILY MAIL is the latest in a long line of newspapers to cough up 'substantial damages' to her after printing incorrect allegations that 'BLACK MAGIC' had been taught at her school.

Other papers who've been forced to eat their words and fork out include THE REPORTER and THE MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS as well as PICCADILLY RADIO.

But, THE ADVERTISER, it seems, got away with a cut price grovel.

When we rang her up at school MRS. NIGHTINGALE was being very cagey about the precise amount of damages she had received and would neither confirm nor deny reports that each one of the naughty newspapers in question had to fork out £1,000.

She was also unable to tell us what she intends to do with all the lovely loot. She thought some of it, at least, would go to charity.
How's about endowing a local HOME FOR SUPERANNUATED JOURNALISTS MAY ?□

Sport for all?

You may have noticed that WRECKREATION are running a 'Mike Summerbee Soccer School'. An EYE reader has written in wondering exactly which kids can afford the proper kit, the £26 to join, and the £3 for meals?
The publicity says the school's 'A chance for all young people'. Is it? Or just for the ones that can afford it.□

Oh Dear

An elderly woman patient at TAMESIDE GENERAL HOSPITAL was recently hidden in the loo from a Consultant doing his ward round.
The staff were concerned that she would be sent home before she was better.
It is well known that the HOSPITAL is short of beds, staff and cash and consultants are under pressure to discharge elderly patients too early and at too short notice for anyone to prepare their homecoming.

In one case reported to EYE a patient was sent home at 2 am in the morning!□

BYE BYE

Some 18 senior staff at Tameside Technical College have taken early retirement, a few of them getting a 'golden handshake' at the same time.
Latest to go is P.E. JONES the College's Principal. Many staff are not sorry to see him go and are a bit worried that the wily JONES has stayed just long enough to be in on the interviews for the new senior staff.□

The next issue of TAMESIDE EYE (EYE 25) is going to be a'summer special'. There'll be more pages, more stories and (wait for it...) a price increase.

EYE 25 will cost 20p not 15p.

The extra 5p is to pay for a bigger, better paper, and a new 4-page 'what's on' feature in September that'll give you a regular monthly run-down on EVERYTHING thats happening in and around Tameside.□

HOPPING MAD

Purges in the off-ing at the DROYLSDEN LABOUR CLUB following last issues WRETCH piece on the club's refusal to rent out a room for a LABOUR PARTY discussion on cruise missiles.

KEN STEBBING and his daughter GAIL from the DROYLSDEN HEATH ward Labour Party have had several 'crisis' meetings with the club committee and DROYLSDEN WEST WARD big wigs BARRY HOLLAND and DICK ELLIS.

They've taken the offending article to their solicitors and made noises about expelling whoever it was who leaked the story to us in the first place.

Funnily enough, t'committee don't seem to be at all bothered by the publicity WRETCH gave to their banning of POLITICAL discussion. What *really* got their goat was what they took to be WRETCH's suggestion that there was after hours drinking there.

Well, lads and lasses, WRETCH assures *us* that he would *never* suggest that a LABOUR CLUB (situated directly opposite the local cop-shop) encouraged *illegal* after hours drinking. The 'after hours' drinking he was referring to was, of course, the perfectly legal *after pub hours* boozing that *all* such clubs are allowed in their licence. Which is, after all, why people join them in the first place.
It certainly can't be for political discussions now can it? □

MASONS

Down at the ASHTON cop-shop Freemasonry is a perpetual bone of contention. Some coppers are dead against it because they reckon its always the Masons who get promotion whereas others (usually Masons) say this is a load of rubbish and promotion is all on merit.□

TRADES COUNCIL

After a year in the wilderness, Tameside TRADES COUNCIL has been officially re-generated, pulling together representatives from many Trade Unions in the area. The new President is postal worker and Ashton Councillor JACK PETTIT. But the 'new' secretary is none other than DAVE HALLSWORTH- who was secretary when the TUC closed the old TRADES COUNCIL down. DAVE beat local communist FRANK CROPPER by one vote. And the irony is that FRANK's backers - expecting him to win- tried to make the post of secretary 'for life'!

HALLSWORTH moved that it should be an elected post, like all others and went on to win this years vote!□

FOUND

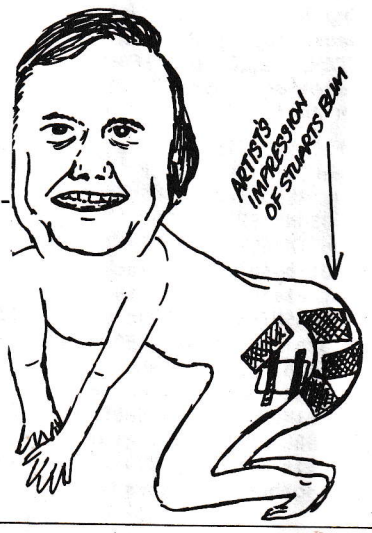
Avid followers of the fortunes of BARRY SHEPHERD's GBS 500 car sales firm rang in to tell us BARRY is alive and well and *still* selling cars. This time on Great Ancoats St.,Manchester. They said he lives at 8 Hunt Avenue, Ashton.□

BURNT BUM

The news that idiotic TV personality STUART HALL had severely burnt his behind after falling asleep under a sunray lamp at his bijou GLOSSOP home was considered important enough by THE EVENING NEWS to merit headline treatment!

But what intrigued us here at EYE was why MR. HALL was trying to give his bum a tan in the first place ?

Tell all MR. HALL! The nation awaits your answer with baited breath!□



BUBBLES!

COMPETITION No. 3

What do you think should go in these bubbles? Think of something funny for any or all of the folk accompanying new Mayor GEORGE NEWTON in his silly run and you win yourself a free year's sub. to TAMESIDE EYE. Answers on a post-card to P.O. BOX 30, HYDE.

NEWS FROM THE GRAVE

THE LATEST LOCAL INFORMATION ON THE HOLOCAUST BUSINESS.

There's a little machine in ASHTON cop-shop that goes BLEEP! BLEEP! all the time. Which is nice. But when it goes BLURGH! BLURGH! or AGH! AGH! or HAR CHAPS or some such, its not so nice because that means the RUSSIANS have launched a nuclear strike against us and our friendly local plods are supposed to DO something about it!

'But what sort of noise does the BLEEP! BLEEP! machine really make when its trying to warn us? asked a curious EYE reader during a tour round the ASHTON cop-shop. "Er...we don't know" replied the constable on duty. "it's never done it yet"
"And what would you do if it DID start warning us?" persisted our reader, "Er,,,," said the plod.

■ ■ ■

And what about the last-minute NUCLEAR SHELTER in the cable chamber of the MOSSLEY telephone exchange on EGMONT STREET? When the four minute warning sounds it takes six men to pile up the sandbags and stow away the dehydrated Mars bars...but there's only room for FOUR!

■ ■ ■

How do our leading local politicians plan to escape total extinction?

According to an EYE reader who was listening into a conversation between TOM PENDRY MP and Labour Leader ROY OLDHAM in a local restaurant they plan to make a mad dash from their homes in BROADBOTTOM and MOTTRAM to a specially prepared train, jump in and steam off on a ten minute journey to the SHEFFIELD railway tunnel, where they plan to sit out ARMAGEDON in peace. Our eavesdropper thinks they might have been joking.□

NEXT ISSUE: WHAT TAMESIDE HAS TO SAY ABOUT ITS SECRET EMERGENCY PLANS.....

SQUATTERS

The council appear to have found a new way to save cash - it's called squatting! The Portakabin they've put on wasteland on Acre St. Denton has been placed there without the owner of the land's permission. And so far she's not seen a penny rent.

MRS. PASS used to live in her home on Acre St. But 5 years ago the inspectors slapped a dangerous building notice on it, and 24 hours later it was pulled down. (In fact MRS. PASS amd the County Council will soon be debating who is to blame for this in court, so we are prevented from discussing the gory details.)

MR. PASS moved to 'temporary' council accomodation in Dukinfield where she still lives. The other day she was going past her 'plot of land' on Acre St. and was astonished to find a tastefully fenced off Tameside Portakabin standing there.

She got on to her solicitor - a MR. CORKAN of the Manchester Law firm GOLDBERG, BLACKBURN. An embarrassed MR. CORKAN said someone in the firm had given Tameside permission *by mistake* .

Next. Tameside Legal Dept. offered to buy the land off MRS. PASS - for £72. During the discussions it emerged that it would cost £5,000 to move the Portakabin!

MR. CORKAN, who is a newly-qualified solicitor, realised that his firms 'mistake' was looking exceedingly expensive - and proved reluctant to force the council to shift their brew hut. Perhaps sensibly, MRS. PASS has now changed to a new solicitor.□

COMPUTER COCK UP

The Union at Tameside Direct Works Dept. is convinced that Management incompetence and a useless computer is responsible for the ever lengthening waiting list for council house repairs.....

Union officials explain that the biggest problem is TAMESIDE's incredibly expensive new computer.

The computer describes the jobs the men have to go out to, and the necessary tools and materials are selected on the basis of its descriptions.

But the computer gives out inadequate and sometimes entirely inaccurate information. This is because inspections of council house estates is inadequate, and the information taken down over the phone from complaining tenants is often incorrect. All of this goes on the computer as writ. Result? The men arrive at a council house with one job ticket only to find two jobs that need doing. Or they arrive and find the job they've got doesn't describe what needs doing. They've got the wrong tools with them or the wrong materials. So, they have to ring up Management to send in the right tools and materials. Which may not be available, because management order materials on the basis of information supplied by the inaccurate computer.
So the men have to wait around. So they go into a local cafe for a cup of tea and get spotted by eagle-eyed local Councillors who get a lot of free publicity complaining about skiving workmen.

Meanwhile the incompetent management escape criticism.

Direct Works workers are currently boycotting a pilot bonus scheme linked to computer. They claim the computer is so inefficient that they hardly make any bonus at all. But the management won't let the men go back to the bonus scheme that everyone else in DIRECT WORKS is on, and so the men on the abandoned pilot scheme are being paid their proper bonus by a Union levy of all its local members! □

DAMP WRIT

Imagine one council taking another to court? Well, Tameside Environmental Health have just told Manchester Housing to do repairs to an appallingly damp Hattersley flat, or legal action will follow!

EYE can also report that in the 'B' section of the recent Manchester Housing Committee, from which the press and public were excluded, it was decided to undertake urgent 'special remedial work' to the concrete balconies on seven of Hattersley's blocks of flats. Apparently, they are worried about lumps of concrete dropping off and injuring passers-by. EYE's guess of likely cost? - £120,000 with the blocks less than 17 years old.

* A packed meeting held at HATTERSLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, to discuss the damp, was addressed by ROY MURPHY from Housing Charity 'SHELTER'.

*As we go to press, a 10 minute slot on Granada Reports is due to go out, featuring a 'debate' between Residents Assoc. chairman KEN WARD and Manchester Housing Chairman JOHN SMITH.□

Bonus buy out

JOHN PHILIP STANSFIELD formerly of MOTTRAM OLD ROAD, STALYBRIDGE, must be a happy man. He's just picked up £10,000 in compensation for losing his part-time job as secretary of the ASHTON STAMFORD BUILDING SOC. based on BOOTH STREET in Ashton.

Mr. STANSFIELD who's been a DIRECTOR of THE REPORTER GROUP, GIBSONS SPORTS SHOP and TAMESIDE PROPERTIES LTD.-hasn't been sacked. It's just that the ASHTON STAMFORD (total assets £3,150,735) has just been bought out by the ALTRINCHAM based CHESHIRE BUILDING SOC. (total assets £164,213,724). The other Directors ▷ of the ASHTON STAMFORD-who include local Magistrate JAMES BUCKLEY J.P., ERIC ROTHWELL J.P. (Stalybridge auctioneer furniture salesman, and some-time council bailiff) and KATHLEEN WOOD J.P. (daughter of RUPERT WOOD the Ashton solicitor and Freemason) all get £6,000 to share between them.
The ASHTON STAMFORD's 1,210 shareholders will also be pleased.
They're getting a 1% bonus on their investment.□

CLUMSY DAVID

DAVID EVANS, TAMESIDE'S BRAND NEW £14,000 A YEAR "POLICY CO-ORDINATOR" FOUND HIMSELF IN A STICKY POSITION AT THE LAST GENERAL MEETING OF HIS UNION, NALGO.
His new job, which gives him control of the key areas of 'Policy, research,& Computers' in TAMESIDE, was created by his friend, Chief Executive DAVID SPIERS *without* consulting NALGO properly. DAVID's Union colleagues were unhappy. Seeing this as just one more example of the Council backing out of agreements made in June 1980.
The issue boiled over at the NALGO General Meeting on June 3rd, when normally moderate executive members backed plans to take industrial action, if Union grievances are not resolved quickly. This action could result in NALGO refusing to move into TAMESIDE's brand new multi-million pound Administrative Centre in October!
Meanwhile NALGO members are waiting for £14,000 a year EVANS to produce a new Research and Computers programme.
Oddly enough the new POLICY AND COORDINATION UNIT was not mentioned in the bi-annual review of events written by DAVID EVAN's close friend DOROTHY MARSDEN, the NALGO Branch Secretary. When questioned about the omission she said:"Oh, I must have forgotten".

YUK! A PAGE OF SODS

WRIGLEY

There have been scurryings and scratching noises in the loft of No. 3 Stamford St. Mossley but its not rats, its none other than ROBERT WRIGLEY ESQ. of WRIGLEYS STONE CLEANING LIMITED.

The appalling WRIGLEY has ignored Tameside's Planning Committee, brushed aside objections from his neighbours, and pushed ahead with his plan to deface Mossley's town centre with a development about as tasteful as a contraceptive machine in the Vatican.

EYE readers will already be aware that *WRIGLEY's* excremental 'dormer' office extension has been partly constructed over his neighbour's property without planning permission and this is the subject of continuing legal action.

The story behind this shows WRIGLEY's cynical disregard for anything but his own interests.

On New Year's day 1981 the couple who live beneath the dormers WRIGLEY was building awakened at 4.00 a.m. to the sound of water dripping through their bedroom ceiling. Not surprisingly they did not sleep again that night. They waited till 9.00 a.m. before phoning WRIGLEY to complain, but he was not available and his wife could not say where he might be contacted; still the water poured in. At 11.30p.m. WRIGLEY himself phoned annoyed that his wife had been troubled and saying he could do nothing until the next day.

He offered to have his men remedy the damage but the offer was declined, after all, if they build leaky dormers what sort of a job might they do on the ceiling ?

Then there was the disappearing chimney.

One day WRIGLEY's men arrived with scaffolding, ▷ claiming that they had some painting to do, however it soon became obvious that they intended removing a chimney stack which was not wholly WRIGLEY's property. WRIGLEY's neighbour phoned his solicitor, the solicitor said 'get the police'; the police could do nothing and so down came the chimney. When WRIGLEY was approached he politely replied. *"I don't want to know you."*

And then there was the problem with the bathroom door.

Such was the weight of the plush executive development in the loft that the upstairs ceiling of No.3 Stamford St. began to sag, and wood had to be removed from the bathroom door so that it would close. Coincidentally the dormer above No. 3 contains the executive W.C. so WRIGLEY can truly be said to be sh**ing on his neighbours.

Following a site visit (3rd June) by Planning Officers, who were obviously very taken with the deep pile carpets, and executive office suite, with bathroom, WRIGLEY now has permission for his Video Film business (on which he claims to have spent £25,000 already)but the order to remove the dormers still stands, WRIGLEY will almost certainly appeal against this, but he has also suggested cosmetic alterations which he hopes will persuade the planners to let them stay.

Despite his self-proclaimed deep affection for Mossley, WRIGLEY now lives in bijou Charlesworth, where his house in Town Lane was re-roofed in smart blue slate, not the pale green roofing felt he feels is good enough for Mossley. □

TANSEY

Among the loudest voices raised in anger over another WRIGLEY's development in Tame St. Mossley was GEORGE TANSEY's another keen environmentalist.

But, GEORGE's building firm TANDOWN CONSTRUCTION are not quite as pure as driven snow themselves when it comes to crudding up our environment. ▷

At the bottom of Highfield Drive in Mossley is Highfield House a rambling old mansion which TANDOWN had permission to use as a site office while Highfield Drive was being built. They now use the site as a store for vehicles and building materials, and despite the fact that Highfield Drive was finished years ago, they still use the house as offices. They have no planning permission to do this, neither do they have permission to use the pretty little copse next to the house as a dump where rubbish has been incinerated, severely damaging among others a very rare and beautiful tree.

Come off it GEORGE, its a case of the pot calling the kettle black. □

MYATT

Pots and kettles form only a small part of the burgeoning scrapheap which is slowly engulfing Quickedge Hill in Mossley.

THE MYATT family of Little Haigh Farm, Quickedge Rd. obviously believe in the old axion "*Where there's muck there's brass*" Many a rusting old heap has found a final parking space at Little Haigh Farm, but now they will have to move on, ▷

Enforcement action was taken on 3rd Dec. and the eyesore must now be removed. However, there is little evidence to suggest that Mr. MYATT intends to do anything of the kind, and legal proceedings will now be taken against him. The council have the right to remove the dump themselves, and charge the operation to MYATTs, but it would be a bold Councillor who trod the public footpath across Little Haigh Farm.

He would find himself face to fang with Mossley's version of the Hound of the Baskervilles. □

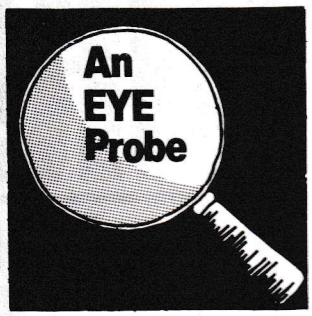
BIGGLES

Hovering above all this unpleasantness in Mossley is none other than Mr. Unpleasant himself, LEON'BIGGLES'HOWARD and his sidekick MICHAEL 'ALGY' WINTERBOTTOM. Their nasty noisy heli copters continue to operate from Helico HQ Manchester Rd. Mossley in ▷ defiance of Enforcement Orders and Discontinueance orders served on Helico by Tameside's Planning Committee.

Helico's appeal to Michael Heseltine is likely to be the subject of a public enquiry in the autumn and 'Biggles' is confident that he will be successful. Yet another example of 'Do first, ask permission afterwards □

'In 45 years as a defending solicitor I have never

THE FACTS



HIGH ROBI

ON 9th DECEMBER 1980 THREE WORKMEN FROM THE TAMESIDE HIGHWAYS DEPT IN HYDE WERE TAKING UP OLD FLAG STONES FROM OLDHAM ROAD. A PRIVATE CAR DROVE UP AND AS A RESULT OF CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE CAR DRIVER AND THE SENIOR WORKMAN 40 OF THOSE FLAGSTONES- WORTH ABOUT £40 ALTOGETHER WERE DELIVERED ILLEGALLY IN FRONT OF A HOUSE ON STALEYHILL DRIVE, STALYBRIDGE.

AND THAT WAS WHEN THE TROUBLE STARTED.....

A lady resident of STALEYHILL DRIVE saw the HIGHWAYS DEPT. delivering the flags. This lady had only recently tried to buy such flags from the HIGHWAYS Depot in HYDE and had been told that she would have to come and fetch them herself. But now she was furious. *There* was a HIGHWAYS DEPT. VAN delivering stones in her own street! She complained to a local councillor.

The Councillor got on to HIGHWAYS and all hell let loose.

FRANCIS ALBERT FOX the Asst. CHIEF ENGINEER at HIGHWAYS interviewed the three men on the gang: TOPHAM the driver, MILLER the mason and JOHN JAMES STELFOX the 21 year old unskilled labourer.

After this, FOX also interviewed the workgang supervisor WRIGHT and WRIGHT's boss EVAN JONES the Superintendant of HYDE Depot.

A picture began to emerge of widespread corruption in the HIGHWAYS DEPT. Corruptions that involved many more men than the three who had delivered stones to STALEYHILL DRIVE.

Most of the graft involved the illegal sale of old paving stones.

Under HIGHWAYS DEPT. regulations these stones had to be broken up and returned to the Depot after being taken up from the roads. Once in the depot they could be bought by the public through the Superintendant EVAN JONES. But the HIGHWAYS DEPT. wouldn't deliver stones to the public, so legitimate purchases were relatively infrequent and the stones tended to pile up. When the piles got too big perfectly good stone had to be taken off to a tip and dumped.

And when workmen knew that there was no more room at the depot they would take the stones straight from the roads to the tip.

It is hardly surprising then that some of these stones tended to find their way through HIGHWAYS workmen to private householders. This illegal-but hardly surprising- activity was to form the basis of what STELFOX's defence solicitor was to describe in court as a widespread 'racket' organised by depot superintendant EVAN JONES.

At the trial the defendin g solicitor alleged that JONES regularly took a cut from the illegal stone sales, and was the fount of all the 'entrenched corruption' at his depot.

HIGHWAYS workmen have spoken to EYE of the removal of large amounts of stone from the depot in hired vehicles and of the theft of new materials.

A spokesman for TAMESIDE INTERNAL AUDIT confirmed that new stock had gone but said he thought the amounts had been small, because of the difficulty of squaring thefts with the regular book keeping checks. But, workmen speak of bogus requisition slips going into the depot offices.

They have also spoken to EYE of their conviction that men who didn't take part in the racket tended to get disciplined for trivial matters, and lost bonuses, rather more often than the men who did take part. Whether this was happening or not the fact that honest workers at the HYDE depot *thought* it was happening put them under pressure to join in the thieving.

The men caught out in DEC. were represented at the first disciplinary meetings by FRANK BERRY the UCATT convenor for BUILDING SERVICES. Because BERRY was uncertain at this time of how far up the ladder corruption went he insisted on by-passing assistant Engineer FRANCIS FOX and going straight to BALDWIN the Chief Engineer with ultimate responsibility for the HIGHWAYS DEPT.

He put it to BALDWIN that men who had been found out were not the main offenders but were scared of making a full written statement because it would not only incriminate them but also superiors who were in a position to make life difficult for them.

A deal

BERRY insisted that in his opinion the men were 'basically honest workers who had been forced into this business'

He attempted to do a deal with Management whereby the men would make a written statement about the whole thing if TAMESIDE would guarantee that disciplinary action would stop short at dismissal.

DAVID SPIERS - the TAMESIDE Chief Executive- rejected this.

As a result a lot of facts about the racket at the HIGHWAYS DEPT. remained on the level of hearsay.

Eventually TOPHAM, MILLER and STELFOX were given the choice of producing a written statement or resigning. The implication being that if they did neither they would be dismissed, with all the stigma that involved.

In the court case STELFOX alleged that he was given assurance at this time that if he resigned and pleaded guilty 'everything would be alright'.

Assistant engineer FOX vigourously denied making such suggestions to STELFOX.

Eventually, against convenor BERRY's advice, the men resigned. MILLER and TOPHAM were taken to court in Dec. and pleaded guilty to theft. After four adjournments (one of which was caused by FRANCIS FOX's absence on holiday) STELFOX came up before the ASHTON Magistrate on June 11th.

The court heard that he had only expected to get "a couple of quid from MILLER' for his part in the job, and had in fact received nothing.

He pleaded not guilty and the case was thrown out after STELFOX's defending solicitor successfully argued that STELFOX was an honest lad at the very bottom of a ▷

chain of co
began with
Superintend

But in Dece
TOPHAM, MIL
FOX had res
first two h
EVAN JONES
off with a
and'an as

Then the TA
came in.

After that
work for se

On his retu
men were ma
about refus
him if he w

There was a
ing between
agement. A
too resigne

In recent m
have been t
missals fro
But EVAN JO
appeared in
the time of
any charges
been laid a

THE TRI

The case against JOHN JAMES STELLFOX ASHTON Magistrates Court on Thursday The calmly confident prosecutor ROY didn't stand a chance against defend itor JULIAN GOLDSTONE a distinguished who gave a peppery impassioned perfor would have done justice to Rumpole o

One of the first witnesses to be called was FRANCIS ALBERT FOX the ASSISTANT CHIEF ENGINEER in charge of HIGHWAYS and SEWAGE MAINTENANCE. He was closely questioned by GOLDSTONE.

GOLDSTONE: *Is it true that there has been considerable corruption going on in this department?...Isn't* ▷

it true that trenched cor effect a rac MR. EVAN JON ways superin the centre o FOX replied was involved

GOLDSTONE: *intention no future for M to be prosec matter?*

felt so strongly about a case' ~ Ashton courts

WAY
BERY

ption which
Depot
EVAN JONES.
r 1980 after
and STEL-
ed, and the
been in court
been let
vere reprim-
ill work.
IDE Auditors

ES went off
al weeks.

some of the
g noises
to work with
reinstated.

rther meet-
NES and Man-
r that he

hs there
more dis-
IGHWAYS.
has not yet
urt, nor, at
iting, do
pear to have
nst him.□

held at
h June.
ELAND
solic-
d gent
ce that
e Bailey.

ere was en-
tion- in
?...and wasn't
(the High-
dant) at
he racket?
t EVAN JONES

there any
r in the
EVAN JONES
d on this

FOX said he didn't know.

GOLDSTONE questioned FOX about the internal HIGHWAYS DEPT. disciplinary meetings with STELFOX, TOPHAM, MILLER and EVAN JONES following the complaint which had led to the first three being prosecuted.

GOLDSTONE: *Were they (STELFOX, TOPHAM and MILLER) given the alternative of resigning or being dismissed?*

FOX said they were told that they had committed a dismissable offence and that it would be better for them if they resigned.

GOLDSTONE: *Were they promised references if they resigned rather than being dismissed?*

FOX said he didn't know anything about that.

GOLDSTONE: *Did you tell STELFOX that if he pleaded guilty everything would be alright?*

FOX said he had not."No way."

Later, DETECTIVE CONSTABLE GRAHAM THOMASSON of the ASHTON CID took the stand. He recalled how STELLFOX had turned up at the ASHTON police station on 17th Dec. 1980 to get the whole business "off his chest" THOMASSON had asked STELLFOX how much he had expected to get from the sale of the stone. STELLFOX had replied "I don't know - a couple of quid off MILLER". THOMASSON had then asked STELLFOX whether he'd done that kind of thing before. STELLFOX had replied "no, it's my first time and last time". GOLDSTONE asked THOMASSON if he knew that STELLFOX hadn't in fact received a farthing from the theft he stood accused of. THOMASSON said he didn't know that.

After the last prosecution witness had been called

GOLDSTONE stood up and submitted to the magistrates that there was no case to answer.
He then made an impassioned plea to the magistrate which is worth quoting at length.He said.....

In 43 years as a defending solicitor I have never before felt so strongly about a case.....all my life I have had a passionate sense of justice and this case has stirred that sense.... the reason I feel strongly is that.....this poor navvy has been made a scapegoat.. he is uneducated , simple and frightened and he has never been accused of being dishonest in his life....he is a young lad of unblemished character. A labourer whose job it was to do what he was told.

He was paid to load and unload flagstones and this is what he did. It was not his job to enquire whether the flags should have gone to the tip because they were unuseable or to the depot because they were useable.... corruption has been brushed under the table....corruption has been going on in the HIGHWAYS DEPT. and that corruption flowed from the head....from the superintendant.□

HACKS

EYE's reporter at the Court case was interested to note the absence of the local press at the STELLFOX case. ALAN SALTER from the EVENING NEWS was there, but the ADVERTISER and THE REPORTER weren't.

What's this, you ask? A media conspiracy to cover-up corruption in high places?

Naw! They just didn't know the trial was happening.

THE REPORTER's aging man-on-the-spot WAS at the courts but was busy reporting the wrong trial.

And when kind MR. SALTER told him the basic facts he spent a lot of time worrying whether the story would interest anybody in ASHTON or STALYBRIDGE in view of the fact that STELLFOX came from Droylsden and the HIGHWAYS DEPT. is in HYDE□

THE VICTIM

JOHN JAMES STELFOX and the other men who were forced to resign from the HYDE depot after being accused of minor thefts were 'unlucky' according to MR. BALDWIN the Chief Engineer with ultimate responsibility for the HIGHWAYS DEPT. MR. BALDWIN made this astonishing statement in a long telephone interview with EYE the afternoon after STELFOX's case had been thrown out of the ASHTON Magistrates Court.

JOHN STELFOX OUTSIDE HIS DROYLSDEN HOME.

It was not the only startling thing MR. BALDWIN said that afternoon.....

"We do know that this has been going on for some time" said MR. BALDWIN "second hand materials were considered fair game and so we could have been in the position of dismissing a lot of people if we had taken steps against everyone who has been mentioned in this connection....I have a lot of sympathy for the men who have been dismissed....they were unlucky...it does strike me as unfair...with hind - sight we might have done it differently."

We agree with you MR. BALDWIN. It was unfair to sack men at the bottom of a chain of corruption that, in the words of JOHN STELFOX's solicitor stemmed 'from the Head...from the Highways Superintendant."

It seems especially unfair in view of the statements made to us by shop-floor workers that there was a feeling in the HYDE DEPOT that men who didn't take part in their bosses racket tended to get disciplined rather more than the men who did.

Your 'sympathy' for the prosecuted men is well placed MR. BALDWIN.

Two of them had served with your Dept. for a total of over 50 years.

Both had a reputation of being good workmen.

One of them has described the loss of his job to EYE as 'like losing a limb' and fears that his marriage is breaking up as a result.

The third - acquitted in Court of the charges brought against him - has just got married and stands little or no chance of getting another job. Haven't they been punished enough?

You seem like a fair and honest man, MR. BALDWIN. Courageous enough to publicly admit that you may have made an error of judgement. So why not put the wrong to right?

Reinstate STELFOX and the others. Discipline them by all means, but give them their jobs back, and devise a system at the HIGHWAYS DEPT. which will prevent anything like this happening again.

g solicitor I have never felt so strongly about a case

An EYE Probe

HIGHWAY ROBBERY

caught out in DEC.
resented at the
sciplinary meetings
BERRY the UCATT
for BUILDING SER-
Because BERRY was
n at this time of
up the ladder
on went he insisted
ssing assistant
FRANCIS FOX and go-
ight to BALDWIN the
gineer with ultim-
onsibility for the
DEPT.

t to BALDWIN that
had been found out
the main offenders
scared of making
ritten statement
it would not only
ate them but also
s who were in a
to make life
t for them.

leal

nsisted that in
nion the men were
lly honest workers
been forced into
siness'

npted to do a deal
nagement whereby
would make a
statement about
le thing if TAME-
ould guarantee
sciplinary action
top short at dis-

PIERS - the TAMESIDE
xecutive- rejected

sult a lot of facts
he racket at the
S DEPT. remained
level of hearsay.

lly TOPHAM, MILLER
LFOX were given
ice of producing a
statement or
ng. The implication
hat if they did
they would be dis-
with all the stigma
volved.

court case STELFOX
that he was given
ce at this time that

if he resigned and pleaded guilty 'everything would be alright'.

Assistant engineer FOX vigourously denied making such suggestions to STELFOX.

Eventually, against convenor BERRY's advice, the men resigned. MILLER and TOPHAM were taken to court in Dec. and pleaded guilty to theft. After four adjournments (one of which was caused by FRANCIS FOX's absence on holiday) STELFOX came up before the ASHTON Magistrate on June 11th.

The court heard that he had only expected to get "a couple of quid from MILLER' for his part in the job, and had in fact received nothing.

He pleaded not guilty and the case was thrown out after STELFOX's defending solicitor successfully argued that STELFOX was an honest lad at the very bottom of a ▷ chain of corruption which began with the Depot Superintendant EVAN JONES.

But in December 1980 after TOPHAM, MILLER and STELFOX had resigned, and the first two had been in court EVAN JONES had been let off with a severe reprim- and an as still work.

Then the TAMESIDE Auditors came in.

After that JONES went off work for several weeks.

On his return some of the men were making noises about refusing to work with him if he was reinstated.

There was a further meeting between JONES and Management. After that he too resigned.

In recent months there have been two more dismissals from HIGHWAYS. But EVAN JONES has not yet appeared in court, nor, at the time of writing, do any charges appear to have been laid against him.□

THE TRIAL

The case against JOHN JAMES STELLFOX was held at ASHTON Magistrates Court on Thursday 11th June. The calmly confident prosecutor ROY MORELAND didn't stand a chance against defending solicitor JULIAN GOLDSTONE a distinguished old gent who gave a peppery impassioned performance that would have done justice to Rumpole of the Bailey.

One of the first witnesses to be called was FRANCIS ALBERT FOX the ASSISTANT CHIEF ENGINEER in charge of HIGHWAYS and SEWAGE MAINTENANCE. He was closely questioned by GOLDSTONE.

GOLDSTONE: *Is it true that there has been considerable corruption going on in this department?...Isn't it true that there was entrenched corruption- in effect a racket?...and wasn't MR. EVAN JONES (the Highways superintendant) at the centre of the racket?*
FOX replied that EVAN JONES was involved.

GOLDSTONE: *Is there any intention now or in the future for MR. EVAN JONES to be prosecuted on this matter?*
FOX said he didn't know.

GOLDSTONE questioned FOX about the internal HIGHWAYS DEPT. disciplinary meetings with STELFOX, TOPHAM, MILLER and EVAN JONES following the complaint which had led to the first three being prosecuted.

GOLDSTONE: *Were they (STELFOX, TOPHAM and MILLER) given the alternative of resigning or being dismissed?*

FOX said they were told that they had committed a dismissable offence and that it would be better for them if they resigned.

GOLDSTONE: *Were they promised references if they resigned rather than being dismissed?*

FOX said he didn't know anything about that.

GOLDSTONE: *Did you tell STELFOX that if he pleaded guilty everything would be alright?*

FOX said he had not."No way."

Later, DETECTIVE CONSTABLE GRAHAM THOMASSON of the ASHTON CID took the stand. He recalled how STELLFOX had turned up at the ASHTON police station on 17th Dec. 1980 to get the whole business "off his chest" THOMASSON had asked STELLFOX how much he had expected to get from the sale of the stone. STELLFOX had replied "I don't know - a couple of quid off MILLER".
THOMASSON had then asked STELLFOX whether he'd done that kind of thing before. STELLFOX had replied "no, it's my first time and last time".
GOLDSTONE asked THOMASSON if he knew that STELLFOX hadn't in fact received a farthing from the theft he stood accused of. THOMASSON said he didn't know that.

After the last prosecution witness had been called GOLDSTONE stood up and submitted to the magistrates that there was no case to answer.
He then made an impassioned plea to the magistrate which is worth quoting at length.He said.....

In 43 years as a defending solicitor I have never before felt so strongly about a case.....all my life I have had a passionate sense of justice and this case has stirred that sense.... the reason I feel strongly is that.....this poor navvy has been made a scapegoat.. he is uneducated , simple and frightened and he has never been accused of being dishonest in his life....he is a young lad of unblemished character. A labourer whose job it was to do what he was told.
He was paid to load and unload flagstones and this is what he did. It was not his job to enquire whether the flags should have gone to the tip because they were unuseable or to the depot because they were useable.... corruption has been brushed under the table....corruption has been going on in the HIGHWAYS DEPT. and that corruption flowed from the head....from the superintendant.□

HACKS

EYE's reporter at the Court case was interested to note the absence of the local press at the STELLFOX case. ALAN SALTER from the EVENING NEWS was there, but the ADVERTISER and THE REPORTER weren't.

What's this, you ask? A media conspiracy to cover-up corruption in high places?

Naw! They just didn't know the trial was happening.

THE REPORTER's aging man-on-the-spot WAS at the courts but was busy reporting the wrong trial.

And when kind MR. SALTER told him the basic facts he spent a lot of time worrying whether the story would interest anybody in ASHTON or STALYBRIDGE in view of the fact that STELLFOX came from Droylsden and the HIGHWAYS DEPT. is in HYDE□

INDUSTRY

KAYVER

It's legalised piracy' say VERNON and KAREN HEATHCOTE, Directors of KAYVER STRETCH COVERS of MILLBROOK. 'It's just the bank protecting its investment' says MICHAEL PRIESTLEY, the RECEIVER called in by the YORKSHIRE BANK to sell off the assets of the HEATHCOTE's small STALYBRIDGE company, with its 25 strong workforce of young women.

The KAYVER story starts last SPRING during an unusually bad run of trade. A small 1979 profit of £50,000 plummeted to a loss of £15,000 in the three months from APRIL to JUNE '80.

But rather than put their workers on short time or make redundancies the HEATHCOTE's stock-piled.

Then their bank manager JOHN TAYLOR of the YORKSHIRE BANK in SHAW, OLDHAM panicked. KAYVER had run up an overdraft of £30,000, stocks of £200,000 and £135,000 worth of creditors. The HEATHCOTE's told him that trade would improve in the AUTUMN as it had done annually for ten years. But, MR. TAYLOR couldn't wait.

Under the terms of the DEBENTURE signed by the HEATHCOTE's when they accepted the bank's loan, TAYLOR had the right to send in a Receiver and call back the bank's cash at any time.

In the summer of 1980 he did just that.

MR. PRIESTLEY of SPICER & PEGGLERS, a BIRMINGHAM accountants, took legal possession of the HEATHCOTE company, gave the workforce six weeks to double their turnover and started to sell off the accumulated stocks. And when that didn't produce enough cash, the Receiver started bringing in asset-strippers with a view to buying up the HEATHCOTE's machinery and materials.

Meanwhile, the women at the factory were doing a voluntary 18 hour day to meet the receivers original demands.

Within six weeks the turnover had MORE than doubled.

Then came the kick in the face. MR. PRIESTLEY under ' orders from above' told the workers that they were now doing 'too well'. The company's accumulated stocks and capital reserves were being used up to meet the increased orders, which meant that they couldn't be sold off to claw back the banks cash.
Everyone at KAYVER was furious. The HEATHCOTE's are now convinced that the bank would have been quite happy to see the firm go under and 26 jobs lost, as long as its debt could be recovered.

At this point *someone* let down Mr. PRIESTLEY's car tyres...

Then, just as HEATHCOTE's had predicted the AUTUMN upturn in trade occured and KAYVER climbed back into profit. By 1981 most of the YORKSHIRE BANKS debts had been paid off, and creditors were coming round. Then, SPICER & PEGGLER came up with their second snooker.

They presented the HEATHCOTE's with the bill for their Receivership. It came to £15,000. A few weeks later they increased it, without warning, to £20,000.

The DEBENTURE signed by the HEATHCOTE's left them no option. They had to pay. So, as we go to press, although KAYVER STRETCH COVERS is coming out of Receivership, with a new bank and a new accountant, the company and the workers have to face the difficult year ahead with a £20,000 millstone round their necks for the privilidge of having been in a receivership which the receivers privately admit was totally unnecessary in the first place.□

OLDHAM BATTERIES

Maintenance workers at OLDHAM BATTERIES feel their jobs are being threatened by the contract maintenance staff the firm is bringing in.

OLDHAM's own people are on short time, yet the contract staff are in the Denton factory on the very days the works staff are forced to be idle.

And to rub salt in the wound, the firm are now paying their own men using the Government's short time working subsidy, which gives them only 50% of their normal wage. Their union, AUEW has not made any formal complaints as yet. But the workers-joiners, fitters electricians - feel that whilst it may have been alright having in contract workers in the days that they were all on overtime today's recession hit production means the contractors are no longer needed.□

BRITISH RAIL

Remember the second derailment at Hadfield, when a train load of ammonia tipped over and local people had to be evacuated at the dead of night? It need never have happened says EDDIE WRIGHT Hadfield railway worker and secretary of Glossop and District Trades Council.

On March 10th there was a derailment at Dinting with a train ploughing up the station in a spectacular manner.

By the following Monday British Rail Management had completely removed the whole track, including the electric power and points, which left only one track operational for that section of the line. They did this to 'save money' because the Woodhead tunnel is due for closure.

But then the 'ammonia' train came off this track on April 8th because- according to EDDIE WRIGHT- it had the wrong curves for the train's bogey system. If the "ammonia" train had been on the track the management had ripped up, it would not have fallen over!

Leaving aside the enormous cost of the emergency services (fire engines for example came from as far afield as Chesterfield) management have now gone on to spend thousands of pounds on:

- pilot-men to guide trains over the single track section.
- Altering the signals and puttingin new ones rumoured to cost £3,000 per unit.
- Mending the track destroyed inthe second derailment.

Meanwhile, all the railworkers connected with the Woodhead line are awaiting the result of the NUR aponsored enquiry into its proposed closure by BRITISH RAIL.

NUR have said they'll be bound by the result- whilst BR have said they are going to close the tunnel in any case. □

EYE
INFORMATION SERVICE

WE CAN PROVIDE DETAILS OF LOCAL COMPANY ACCOUNTS, PROFITS, DIVIDENDS and DIRECTOR'S SALARIES, plus BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MANY LOCAL ISSUES.

Ring us and we'll find out.

TEL.MOSSLEY 6533
or **366 0382**
PO BOX 30 HYDE, CHES.

IN COUNCIL

What's going to happen now that HESELTINE, MRS. THATCHER's local Govt. minister has told Tameside to make even more cuts! Leader ROY OLDHAM is to be found holding his head in despair especially as he knows that someone is bound to suggest an extra rates increase. Still, his despair could equally be because his plans for opening the Labour Party's first ANTIQUES EMPORIUM at Mottram (above old Co-op) have now run into stiff competition. Another private antiques shop has opened up in the village. □

Since the Mayoral Limousine lost an axle in the back streets of a Yorkshire town, sightings of it have been reported to EYE thick and fast. Latest query came from an EYE reader who claims to have seen it parked outside a MANCHESTER BREWERY! □

Distinct lack of interest in our new Mayor's inaugural procession and church service last month. Old faithfulls (!) ROY OLDHAM and MARTIN WAREING among the few councillors very much outnumbered by what many thought was a military takeover of Dukinfield. The couple of dozen people who turned out to watch the procession must have been impressed by the military bands representing almost every uniformed group imaginable. The EYE was more impressed with the large police cordon around MAYOR NEWTON at the rear of the procession - maybe they know something we don't!?! □

A lot of fuss over Cllr. HARRY STACHINI's move from his old 3-bedroomed council house on Palace Road 300 yards up the road to another 3-bed council house on posher Rosehill Road.

Residents nearby rang EYE wanting to know how HARRY managed to get all his repairs done at both houses and complete redecoration by Direct Works of his new home.

Unfortunately HARRY didn't answer the phone when we rang him, so we don't know either. □

After three full council meetings recently elected Audenshaw Labour councillor FLORENCE HADFIELD still can't decide where she stands, or in this case sits!

After two meetings situated on the Labour benches the last meeting found her firmly ensconsed next to a smiling COLIN GRANTHAM- well onto the Tory benches. □

Poor newly-elected GMC Councillor WILF BIRTWISTLE hasn't been made chief of any GMC committee, although he used to be Chairman of Fire before losing his GMC seat to the Tories in '77. But he's not alone - TAMESIDE'S county councillors are such a bunch of unknowns they got no GMC chairmanships at all! □

PUBS

This month we start an occasional series on Tameside's famous boozing clubs.

NEWTON MOOR WORKING MENS CLUB on MARKHAM ST. in HYDE used to be known as 'The Peasants Paradise' but a decision by T'Committee to break into their £80,000 worth of investments has got rid of the stigma and turned the club into one of the most comfortable in the area.

Lager at 38p, Bitter at 37p. and Mild at 35p. adds to the attraction, and so does the incredibly cheap membership fee at 60p. (going up to £1 next January) its probably the cheapest in town and provides you with a free passport to every other affiliated working mans club in the country, most of which charge anything up to £3 to join. □

YOUR RIGHTS

Unfair dismissal

How do I qualify to bring a claim for unfair dismissal?

For most of us there are three ways in which we may find ourselves out of work and feel that we have been unfairly treated.

1. When your employer dismisses you on the spot.

2. "Constructive dismissal' when your employer treats you so badly that you leave the job. (e.g.s of such treatment might be changing your place of work without your approval, or drastically changing your hours or conditions.)

3. When you are unfairly selected for redundancy.

In all of the above circumstances, you can claim unfair dismissal if you work at least 16 hours a week for your employer and have worked there continuously for 52 wks OR work for at least 8 hours a week for your employer and have worked there continuously for 5 years.

If you feel that you have lost your job unfairly then you can make an application for an industrial tribunal hearing by completing an IT application form obtainable from the local Job Centre.

For further advice and information on the question of unfair dismissal you can also pick up a free advice leaflet from the local Job Centre. □

SPECTACULAR

TAMESIDE EYE

summer Tshirt offer

There are 2 graffiti style designs:

1. *I never read TAMESIDE EYE* or
2. *TAMESIDE EYE is mildly offensive*
3. *20,000 readers swear by it (reproduction of cover No. 23).*

And three sizes SMALL, MEDIUM & LARGE.

All T shirts are printed black on white. Send £3.00 for each T shirt (& 50p for P & P) and tell us the design and size for you. Send cheques and postal orders to :
TAMESIDE EYE, PO BOX 30, HYDE, CHESHIRE SK14 3JL.

NORTHERN CARNIVAL AGAINST RACISM

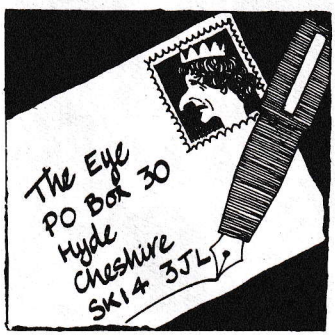
THE SPECIALS, MISTY, ASWAD, AU PAIRS

Leeds, Sat.4th July 11 a.m.

For coach details tel 061-273-1162 (ANL / RAR)

ROCK AGAINST RACISM

LETTERS



FARTS

SIR,

May I take this opportunity of addressing an Open Letter via your columns to the Management of Tameside Theatre.

During a recent performance at the theatre my wife and I repaired to the bar during the interval. As usual, the bar was crowded and we were forced to stand.

Some minutes later, there stole upon us the most invidious appalling and fetid stench it has ever been my misfortune to inhale. It was so disagreeable that it quite put my wife off her potato crisps.

I at first assumed that some animal had crept, unobserved, into the room and defacated in a corner, but I was soon disabused of this notion by the muffled sniggerings of the persons standing behind me, one of whom, it seemed from their conversation had 'broken wind.'

Such was the ferocity of the impudent fume he had so recently sneaked out that people were moving away into the corridor. Indeed he had let fly such a pandemonium of odours that the bar was rendered uninhabitable for the remainder of the interval.

My wife and I were left isolated in the centre of the room, together with the culprit and his companion, both of whom were apparently impervious to the vileness loosed into the atmosphere. On the contrary, they seemed to find the whole incident amusing.

Not wishing to be thought the perpetrator of this outrage, I said.'Look here, this is not funny, you know.' To which he replied 'Don't blame it on me you old fart, your nose must be too near your arse.'

I was rendered speechless by this discourtesy, and promptly removed my wife into the corridor, lest the conversation degenerate even further towards the gutter. To my embarassment, I discovered that it was generally assumed by the assembled patrons that I was the author of the nauseous exhalation - my protest had merely made it appear that I was trying to shift the blame onto someone else, rather as some people do with a dog.

It is high time, in my opinion, that some provision was made for the exclusion of ill-mannered individuals from public performances. Imagine the unpleasantness if this person had uncorked his foulness in the crowded auditorium - people could well have been injured in the ensuing scramble for the exits.

I trust that some appropriate action (the provision of breathing apparatus, for example) will be taken by the Theatre Management to prohibit the indiscriminate exercise of flatulence on the premises, and I would suggest that tastefully-worded notices to this effect be prominently displayed in the foyer.
Yours etc.

E.R. BARRACLOUGH
183 Union St. Ashton. □

WHACKO

Dear Editor,

You draw attention (EYE June) to the 'curious pleasure' derived by some supporters of corporal punishment in recounting, in lurid detail, the beatings meted out to them as children. Readers of IAN GIBSON's 'The English Vice', will be in no doubt that beating children can develop sado-masochistic tendencies.

While, of course, the behaviour of consenting adults in private is their own business, one would expect even members of the 'flog 'em brigade' to be concerned by the indisputable fact that some teachers derive sexual pleasure from beating children.

Just a few months ago, a Staffordshire headmaster ERIC COTTRELL, was given a 12 month suspended prison sentence for indecently assaulting girl pupils, aged 5, 8 and 9. The prosecuting solicitor said that MR. COTTRELL'made feeble excuses for smacking the children on their bare bottoms.'
He told the police he found it was becoming 'compulsive'. The police found a collection of pornographic magazines in MR. COTTRELL's house. Titles included 'Flagellation' and 'Schoolgirl Sex.'

LADY WOOTTON pointed out in 1973 that 'the only people who can wield a cane with impunity, in the exercise of their professional activities, are teachers and prostitutes.' Yet in Tameside, we have the unedifying spectacle of certain members of the National Association of Head teachers devoting an enormous amount of energy to demanding the right to beat children as young as 4, including those who are mentally and physically handicapped. Curious, but also nauseating.

Yours faithfully,

TOM SCOTT
Education Secretary.

STOPP
The Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment. □

GOAL

Dear EYE,

Re your GMC Election Column in Issue 23.

If anyone was 'embarrassed' by the small communist vote in the recent county elections, it certainly was not myself the candidate!

With the capitalist propoganda machine of press, radio and television in full cry for the lifetime of most of the working population against the communist party and its members (eg the recent case of 'Robbo' Robinson) it was fully realised that we were faced with a totally unequal struggle. However, it was considered that the voters of at least one ward should have the opportunity to read what our policies really were and also given a chance to vote for a real alternative strategy to the discredited and anti-working class measures of this Tory Government. It is probable that, in the event many workers did read our message and decided that the best way to stop the Tories was to vote Labour, just to be sure!

The Labour victory is one step in the right direction but there is a long road ahead to be travelled before the goal of socialism is reached. Along this road the Communist Party will have a significant and leading political role to play. You will see !

Yours sincerely,

FRANK CROPPER
Secretary,
Tameside Communist Party
11 Manor Farm Close
Ashton Under Lyne. □

WINDOWS

DEAR SIRS,

With reference to MR. & MRS. THOMPSON and their windows (EYE 23) maybe my experience as a council tenant would help.

In July 1977 after numerous requests for repairs to our kitchen window frames I wrote to the council suggesting I should have the window frames repaired privately and deduct the cost from my rent.

T he housing officer replied that as the council accepted its statutory responsibility for repairs to their property they could not accede to my request.

I then witheld payment of my rent, this in turn brought a threat of legal action from the council.

I phoned a MR. ROBINSON suggesting that eviction was pointless as the repairs would have to be

LETTERS

completed before the house could be re-let, he told me it would not come to eviction. At this I wrote to the council saying that as they had obviously abdicated their statutory obligations for repairs I could see no reason why I should honour mine regarding rent and that any litigation would be defended vigorously and a counter claim for breach of contract instituted.

Within a fortnight the repairs were completed.

Yours faithfully,
MR. A. MOUNTNEY
13 Westhill Close,
Stalybridge. □

EYE REPLY: Perhaps more tenants should follow your example Mr. Mountney.

GOD AND THE BOMB

DEAR EYE,

My attitude to nuclear deterents was printed in the HATTERSLEY NEWS of mid November 1980 and appeared in the context of Rememberance Day.

"Nuclear deterents cause many of our young people real fear. It would be terrible if such weapons were ever used. In defence of their retention it is well to remember that the countries of both East and West who have access to such devices have had no major conflict for thirty five years. This is a peace unheard of in their recent history and it has not been the good fortune of countries who possess no such deterents. The moral issue is a hard one, but living as we do in an imperfect world which takes little note of the teachings of CHRIST we need to hold on to frightening weapons and at the same time to recognise that others have comparable means of destruction, then we can be confident of continuing peace."

The Land's End to John O' Groats bicycle ride which has brought a good press for HATTERSLEY, aimed not only to raise money for the Parish Church of ST.BARNABAS but also for eighteen National and local charities. Happily, the concern of the Church is to reach out a helping hand where there is need. With such a Church I am pleased to identify.

Yours faithfully,

CANON J.E. BOWERS

ST. BARNABAS VICARAGE,
HATTERSLEY. □

EYE REPLY: Thanks for the letter Canon. We had to cut some boring parts, but it seems to us we got the story right the first time.

ATHERTON

DEAR EYE

Doctor D.A. ATHERTON the Open University Student from Greenfield, apart from being a meat pie eater and Guinness drinker, has also been known to dress up in womens clothes at fancy dress parties.

Yours sincerely,
PHIL LITTLEWOOD
22 Staley Rd.,
Mossley. □

DRIVEL

Hallo Readers!

I made a visit to the TAMESIDE THEATRE recently. Not, I hasten to add, for pleasure, but in my official role as PRESIDENT of *THE GEE CROSS ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY- WHITE- RESIDENT-MORAL-DECENCY-AND TAX DODGING LEAGUE OF HOSPITAL FRIENDS(THATCHERITE / JOSEPHIST) LTD.* in order to express my righteous indignation at the presence on stage that night of the disgusting television 'dancing' troupe HOT GOSSIP!

Well, just imagine my horror, as I settled down in my seat next to the societies lovely, chaste, treasurer MRS. EDNA TUPPERWARE J.P., when I saw Cllr. SYLVIA SWIFFIN taking a seat just in front of us, accompanied by the leader of the Labour council ROY OLDHAM BSc!!

Alerted to what was going on, I rose to my feet, ostensibly to buy a Orange from the lady at the front, but *in fact* to see who else of note was sitting in the auditorium with lecherous intent.

Imagine my disgust when I saw that it was absolutely full of TAMESIDE officials! All with metaphorical newspapers over their laps, waiting impatiently for that vile multi-racial dirty dancing group HOT GOSSIP!

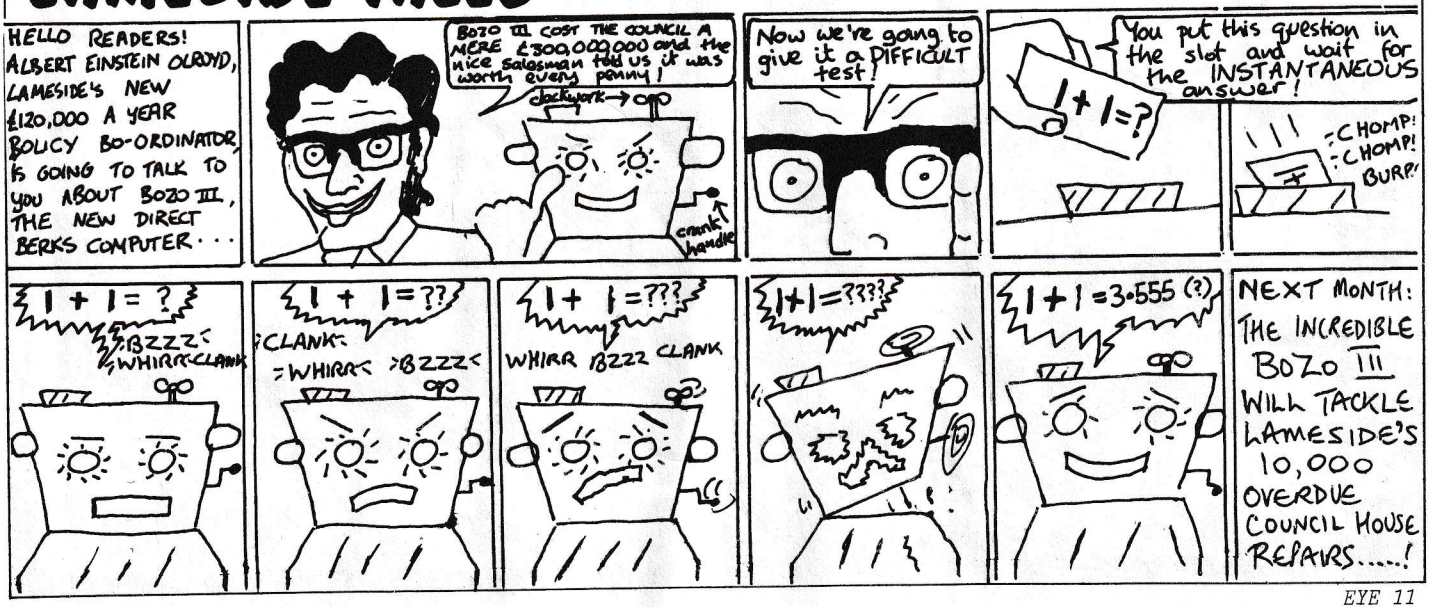
Is this what we pay our ratesfor? Is this an adult example for the erring youth of today!? Why cannot our municipal theatre put on healthy wholesome turns like TEDDY CARR & PEARL JOHNSON or FLANDERS & SWANN??
Or, if we must have sex, why not the TILLER GIRLS ?

In my opinion all those TAMESIDE employees and councillors who attend these HOT GOSSIP orgies ought to be municipally castrated (wherever appropriate). □

Wretch.

LAMESIDE TALES

INTRODUCING LAMESIDE'S USER-FRIENDLY NUMBER-CRUNCHER..... BOZO III !


HELLO READERS! ALBERT EINSTEIN OLROYD, LAMESIDE'S NEW £120,000 A YEAR POLICY BO-ORDINATOR, IS GOING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT BOZO III, THE NEW DIRECT BERKS COMPUTER...
BOZO III COST THE COUNCIL A MERE £300,000,000 and the nice salesman told us it was worth every penny!
clockwork
crank handle
Now we're going to give it a DIFFICULT test!
You put this question in the slot and wait for the INSTANTANEOUS answer!
1+1=?
:CHOMP! :CHOMP! BURP!
1 + 1 = ?
:BZZZ< :WHIRR< :CLANK
:CLANK: :WHIRR< :BZZZ<
1 + 1 =???
WHIRR BZZZ CLANK
1+1=????
1 + 1 =3.555 (?)
NEXT MONTH: THE INCREDIBLE BOZO III WILL TACKLE LAMESIDE'S 10,000 OVERDUE COUNCIL HOUSE REPAIRS.....!

Liberty Financial Services

FOR FREE ADVICE ON
Mortgages, Taxation Planning, Capital Investment - Investment Plans.
SECURE YOUR INDEPENDENCE WITH
Pensions & Insurance

For further information contact
PETER MORTEN-JONES
Home 061 339 8132
Business 061 834 5736

LIBERTY, DEANSGATE HOUSE, CAMP STREET, MANCHESTER

GRASS ROOTS

SPOOKLIST BOOKLIST OUT SOON

"Phone-tappers and the Security State by Duncan Campbell £1.50
Who, Where and Why
"Beneath the City Streets by Peter Laurie £1.95
Microwaves and bunkers
"The Big Brother Game" £7.50
Do it yourself bugging and de-bugging
"Illuminatus! by R. Shea and R. A. Wilson 3 vols. at £1.10
Science Fiction - We think!

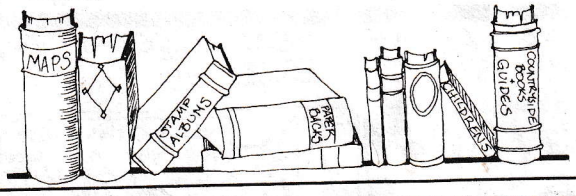
spooks, spies, bugs and a different bookshop

how it's done.

1 newton street
piccadilly, manchester
m1 1hw tel 061 236 3112

Glossop Bookshop

GENERAL AND EDUCATIONAL BOOKSELLERS
ARE YOU A STAMPS BUFF? -
WE HAVE A WIDE SELECTION OF ALBUMS AND CATALOGUES
OUR SPECIALITY!
PLUS AN EXCELLENT RANGE OF CHILDRENS' BOOKS.
TRAVEL GUIDES, O.S. MAPS AND COUNTRYSIDE BOOKS.
96 HIGH STREET WEST, GLOSSOP



TAMESIDE WELFARE RIGHTS UNIT NEED

2 Welfare Rights Workers

Salary AP5 (£6870-£7338)
and 1 CLERICAL ASSISTANT, Salary Clerical Grade 2 (c.£4500) to run a call-in or phone-in service from our base, and to provide advice sessions throughout the Borough. Applicants should have relevant advice/ training skills. Apply with C.V. by July 1st to JEAN HURLSTON, 98 OLD ST. ASHTON. For more info. tel. GRAHAM COLBOURNE on 368 8992. Interviews Jul.15th

****

We are also seeking suitable shop front premises, with easy access by public transport in either HYDE or ASHTON.
The next Management Committee meeting - 9th Sept.'81. at 7.30pm at the Indian Community Centre, Union Rd. ASHTON.

TAMESIDE EYE

PHONE
Mossley 6533
no reply ?
then ring us
on **366 0382**
our 24 hour
answerphone

WRITE
PO Box 30
HYDE
Cheshire
SK14 3JL

NEXT ISSUE:
EYE 25 OUT 18th JULY
COPY TO US 8th JULY

ADVERTISING RATES;
Full page £40
Half page £20
Quarter page £12
Eighth page £7
10% off for 3 inserts
20% off for 6 inserts

SUBSCRIPTIONS; *Have the EYE mailed direct to you for £5.00 for 12 months.*

PRINTED BY; *Manchester Free Press, Bombay House, 59 Whitworth St. Manchester. TEL 228 0976*

© TAMESIDE EYE 1981
ISSN 0260-9800